Rep. Paul Tonko's Fiscal Year 2024 Community Project Funding Guidance Document

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1. USDA Community Facilities Grants

Grants to purchase, construct, or improve essential community facilities, to purchase equipment, and pay other related project expenses. Essential community facilities include, but are not limited to, healthcare facilities, public facilities, public safety measures, educational services, or other community support services.

Community Facilities grants cannot be used to pay initial operating expenses or annual recurring expenses, refinance existing debt, pay interest, build or repair facilities in non-rural areas, or pay for construction costs of facilities that will be used for commercial rental space.

Any project must serve a rural area as specified in 7 CFR 3570.53 (rural areas including cities, villages, townships, and Federally Recognized Tribal lands with no more than 20,000 residents). Applications should include details on all proposed use of funds, activities that will occur, timeline, and detailed information on the complete service territory. Priority will be given to essential projects, like those focused on public health and safety.

For fiscal year 2023, the average CPF funding level was about \$1.3 million.

<u>Best for:</u> Nonprofit organizations and local governments located in qualified rural areas.

Examples of eligible projects include but are not limited to: medical or dental clinics, healthcare facilities, police or fire departments, and public works vehicles.

FY22 Examples:

- \$195,000 to Sandy Creek Joint Fire District: Sandy Creek Fire District Ladder Truck
- \$1,000,000 to Pocono Family YMCA: Pocono Family Community Center

2. USDA ReConnect Program

Grants funds can be used for the costs of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide broadband service to rural areas without sufficient broadband access.

The area must be rural and lack sufficient access to broadband service. A rural area is any area which is not located within a city, town, or incorporated area that has a population of greater than 20,000 inhabitants. Sufficient access to broadband is defined as greater than 90% of any rural area in which households have fixed, terrestrial broadband service delivering at least 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream. Mobile and satellite services will not be considered in making the determination of sufficient access to broadband. Stand-alone middle-mile projects are not eligible under the ReConnect Program. However, middle-mile facilities are eligible if they are needed to bring sufficient broadband service to all premises in the area.

Applications should include details on: the number of households, businesses, or farms that will be served in the area; the performance of the service to be offered; and whether healthcare or educational facilities will be served. **All policies and procedures apply, including environmental and related reviews and the cost share requirement of 25% of the overall project cost**. Policies and procedures can be found here. For fiscal year 2023, the average ReConnect CPF award was nearly \$1.2 million.

Best for: Local governments and nonprofit organizations that meet eligibility requirements.

FY22 Example:

• \$1,687,500 to the Town of Westerlo: Westerlo Broadband Expansion

3. USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants

The Distance Learning and Telemedicine program (DLT) helps rural residents better utilize the enormous potential of modern telecommunications and the internet for education and healthcare, two critical components of economic and community development. The DLT program helps rural communities acquire the technology and training necessary to connect educational and medical professionals with students, teachers, and patients in rural areas.

Grants may be used for audio and video equipment, broadband facilities that support distance learning or telemedicine (not actual broadband), computer hardware or network components/software, and acquisition of instructional programing. All requests are subject to all the regulations governing the program which can be found at 7 CFR Part 1734. **The program requires a 15% match that cannot come from another federal source.** The program is intended to serve rural areas with populations of 20,000 or less. Applications should include details on how the award will be utilized, what equipment of service will be acquired, and any

information on population(s) served. Competitive awards typically range from \$50,000 to \$1,000,000.

<u>Best for:</u> State and local governments; non-profit health centers, human services providers, and education providers; or a consortia of eligible entities.

FY22 Examples:

• \$115,000 to the Illini Community Hospital: Community Hospital Rural Telemedicine Initiative

4. USDA Agricultural Research Service, Buildings and Facilities

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) owns and operates laboratories and facilities across the United States. Many of these laboratories/facilities are decades old, have outlived their functional lifespan, and are badly in need of major repairs, renovation, or replacement. Requests must be for Agricultural Research Service (ARS)-owned or operated facilities.

Requests can assist in the acquisition of land, construction, repair, improvement, extension, alteration, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities as necessary to carry out the agricultural research programs of the Department of Agriculture. Applications should include details of the estimated project timeline, if the project has distinct and separable phases, the research to be conducted, why the research is a high priority, what modernization is planned and why it is critical to carrying out the research.

Best for: Scientific researchers; local research universities.

FY22 Examples:

• \$10,000,000 to the Sugarcane Research Unit: Sugarcane Research Unit Improvements

5. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Conservation Operations

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) supports private landowners, conservation districts, and other organizations to conserve, maintain, and improve the Nation's natural resources.

Conservation Operations has four major program components: Conservation Technical Assistance, Soil Survey, Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting, and Plant Materials Centers.

Examples of specific objectives include reduce soil erosion, improve soil health, enhance water supplies, improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat, and reduce damage caused by floods and other natural disasters. Applications should include details on: the work to be done, including if the project will conduct surveys, investigations, or research, and if there is a plan to publish the

results of any such work; and any preventative measures to be taken, including engineering operations, methods of cultivation, or changes in use of land.

The average award for this account for FY23 was approximately \$1.3 million.

<u>Best for:</u> Only state, local, and Tribal organizations, or public conservation districts that are eligible to receive funding under this account.

FY22 Examples:

• \$263,000 to the Ohio Energy and Advanced Manufacturing Center: Reduce Runoff Contamination in the Great Lakes

6. USDA Rural Water and Waste Grants

The Water and Waste Disposal Grant Program may be used to finance the acquisition, construction or improvement of drinking water sourcing, treatment, storage, and disposal; sewer collection, transmission, treatment, and disposal; solid waste collection, disposal, and closure; and storm water collection, transmission, and closure. **The funding is subject to a 25% cost share requirement.** Applications should include details on the exact work to be completed and the number of households and businesses served.

Eligible entities include rural areas and towns with population of 10,000 or less and Tribal lands in rural areas.

<u>Best for:</u> Local and Tribal governments that meet eligibility requirements.

FY24 Commerce, Justice, & Science Accounts Guidance

1. NIST Scientific and Technical Research and Services (STRS)

NIST Scientific and Technical Research projects support standards-related research and technology development. Funding must be for activities consistent with and supportive of NIST's mission and within its authorities, aligned with one or more of the functions and activities described in 15 U.S.C. 272. **This account does not fund building construction or renovation projects.** The median award in this account for FY22 was \$1,250,000.

<u>Best For:</u> State and local governments, institutions of higher education, non-profit organizations, hospitals.

2. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Coastal Zone Management

Coastal Zone Management projects support the protection, restoration, and responsible development of our nation's diverse coastal communities and resources. Funding must be for activities consistent with, and supportive of, NOAA's mission and aligned with one or more of the purposes described in the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.) and is subject to any applicable cost share requirement under the same Act.

3. State and Local Justice Assistance—Byrne Justice Assistance Grants

Byrne Justice projects assist state, local, and Tribal law enforcement efforts to enforce laws, address violent crime, increase prosecutions, improve the criminal justice system (including the correctional system), provide victims' services, and other related activities.

Funding must be for activities consistent with, and supportive of, the Office of Justice Programs' mission and aligned with one or more of the purposes described in the Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) program (34 U.S.C. 10152).

This funding cannot be used for: any security enhances or equipment to any nongovernmental entity not engaged in criminal justice or public safety; and vehicles, vessels, aircraft (excluding police cruisers, boats, and helicopters), luxury items, real estate, construction projects (other than penal or correctional institutions), unless the Attorney General certifies that it is essential to the maintenance of public safety and good order. The Committee will also not support initiatives that involve the distribution of drug paraphernalia; initiatives that undermine the 2nd Amendment or infringe upon rights guaranteed by the Constitution without due process of law; initiatives that appear to be anti-law enforcement or unrelated to criminal justice; and larger projects for the construction or renovation of penal or correctional institutions that will exceed the capability of single-year funding.

Non-profit entities may be eligible to receive funding under this account. Priority will be given to projects focused on improving the effectiveness of law enforcement, increasing officer safety, curbing the opioid crisis, etc.

4. Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) – Technology and Equipment

Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Technology and Equipment projects support state, local, and Tribal law enforcement efforts to develop and procure the technology and equipment needed to respond more quickly and effectively, improve officer safety, increase transparency, and enhance community relations.

Funding must be aligned with the purposes described in 34 U.S.C. 10381(b)(8) (the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968). Grants can be used to develop and/or acquire technologies and equipment – including interoperable communications technologies, modernized criminal record technology, and forensic technology – to assist state, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies, including by reorienting the emphasis of their activities from reacting to

crime to preventing crime and training law enforcement officers to use such technologies. **These** funds cannot be used for building construction or renovation projects.

Only state, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies are eligible to receive funding under this account.

JAG Overview & JAG FAQs

5. NASA Safety, Security, and Mission Services

NASA Safety, Security and Mission Services projects support science education, research, and technology development related to NASA's mission. Funding must be for activities advancing the purposes described in 51 U.S.C. 20102 and projects should focus on science, education, research, and technology development related to NASA's mission. These funds cannot be used for medical research, building construction, or renovation projects.

FY24 Energy & Water Accounts Guidance

Eligible accounts include only those below:

- Army Corps of Engineers (Civil Works)
 - Investigations
 - o Construction
 - Mississippi River and Tributaries
 - Operation and Maintenance
- Department of the Interior / Bureau of Reclamation
 - Water and Related Resources

Please note that a CPF request is only necessary to request an increase of funding or scope above or beyond the President's budget request (PBR). If a project is **not** an individually authorized project or a project under the Corps of Engineers Continuing Authorities Program, the submitting office must contact the Subcommittee for further information prior to submitting the request.

For a Bureau of Reclamation project, the project will **not** be eligible if it is authorized only under section 4007, 4009(a), or 4009(c) of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–322).

FY24 Homeland Security Accounts Guidance

1. Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program

FEMA's PDM grants assist state, local, tribal, and territorial governments with planning and implementing sustainable, cost-effective measures to provide long term, permanent risk reduction to individuals and property from future natural hazards, such as floods and wildfires, while reducing reliance on federal funding for future disasters. Projects <u>must</u> meet requirements detailed in FEMA's most recent <u>Notice of Funding Opportunity</u> (NOFO).

Submissions should include a detailed project description, budget describing how the funding will be used, and confirm ability to meet the cost share requirement (generally 25 percent of eligible activity costs and as low as 10 percent for small, impoverished communities defined in 42 U.S.C. 5133). Once projects are approved, the respective State or Territorial Administrative Agency, or Tribal government must submit an application to FEMA and serve as the administrative agent for the grant on behalf of the receiving entity (grant subrecipients).

The average award in this account for FY23 ranged between \$32,482 and \$10,000,000.

Best For: State and local governments.

2. Emergency Operations Center Grant Program

FEMA's EOC grants improve emergency management and preparedness capabilities by supporting flexible, sustainable, secure, strategically located, and fully interoperable ECOs with a focus on addressing identified deficiencies and needs. According to the National Fire Protection Association, an EOC is defined as a "facility or capability from which direction and control is exercised in an emergency. This type of center or capability is designated to ensure that the capacity exists for leadership to direct and control operations from a centralized facility or capability in the event of an emergency. Projects <u>must</u> meet requirements detailed in FEMA's most recent Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

Submissions should include a detailed project description, budget describing how the funding will be used, and confirm <u>ability to meet the cost share requirement (generally 25 percent of eligible activity costs)</u>. Once projects are approved, the respective State or Territorial Administrative Agency, or Tribal government <u>must</u> submit an application to FEMA and serve as the administrative agent for the grant on behalf of the receiving entity (grant subrecipients).

The average award in this account for FY23 ranged between \$158,176 to \$3,000,000.

Best For: State and local governments.

FY24 Interior & Environment Accounts Guidance

1. Environmental Protection Agency—State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)—Water Infrastructure Account

These projects include construction of and modifications to municipal sewage treatment plants and drinking water treatment plants. This includes construction of and modifications to municipal sewage treatment plants and drinking water treatment plants.

STAG infrastructure grants are limited to projects that are publicly-owned or owned by a nonprofit entity and that are otherwise eligible for the funding from the state's Clean Water or Drinking Water State Revolving Funds. Privately-owned projects are **not** eligible for grants. Projects listed on a state's most recent Intended Use Plan will be prioritized. **There is a minimum 20 percent non-Federal cost share requirement for any portion of a project funded through a STAG infrastructure grant.** STAG projects have very specific eligibility requirements.

Best for: Local governments.

FY23 Example:

• \$45,000 for the Village of Fultonville for Drinking Water Upgrades Project

FY24 Military Construction & Veterans Affairs Accounts Guidance

1. Department of Defense—Construction and Unspecified Minor Construction—Active Components

Eligible community project requests include both construction and unspecified minor military construction projects for active components. An unspecified minor military construction project is a project that has an approved cost equal to or less than \$9,000,000. The types of projects under this heading include construction, installation, equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, and facilities for the Army, Navy and Marine Corps, Air Force, Space Force, and Defense-Wide Agencies.

Requests must meet the following criteria: (1) be included on an unfunded requirements / unfunded priorities list (UFR/UPL) from a military service or combatant command or the FY24-28 Future Years Defense Program (FYDP) (2) have at least 35 percent of its design completed or request funding for planning and design; (3) able to be obligated in FY24; (4) submitted to the House Armed Services Committee (HAS) for inclusion in the FY24 National Defense Authorization Act or previously authorized; and (5) have a DD Form 1391, which is DoD's justification for military construction projects.

2. Department of Defense—Construction and Unspecified Minor Construction—Reserve Components

Eligible community project requests include both construction and unspecified minor military construction projects for Reserve Components. An unspecified minor military construction project is a project that has an approved cost equal to or less than \$9,000,000. Some Reserve Component projects require a State funding match. The types of projects under this heading include construction, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for training and administration for the Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, and Air Force Reserve.

Requests must meet the following criteria: (1) be included on an unfunded requirements / unfunded priorities list (UFR/UPL) from a military service or combatant command or the FY24-28 Future Years Defense Program (FYDP) (2) have at least 35 percent of its design completed or request funding for planning and design; (3) able to be obligated in FY24; (4) submitted to the House Armed Services Committee (HAS) for inclusion in the FY24 National Defense Authorization Act or previously authorized; and (5) have a DD Form 1391, which is DoD's justification for military construction projects.

FY24 Transportation and Housing & Urban Development Accounts Guidance

1. Department of Transportation—Highway Infrastructure Projects

Highway Infrastructure Projects are capital projects eligible under 23 U.S.C. 133(b). All projects must be: capital projects or project-specific planning/design for a capital project; supported by the state or Tribal government that would administer the project, such as by being included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) or Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP); and administered by public or Tribal entities.

Most projects will be subject to various federal requirements such as competition in contracting, Buy America, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and a cost share requirement on a sliding scale based on activity, location, and other factors. Funding cannot be used for administrative activities, even if they are eligible under the statutory citation. This includes general operating expenses and planning activities. More information on eligibility: https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fastact/factsheets/federalsharefs.cfm

<u>Best For:</u> State and local governments; metropolitan planning organizations; local transportation agencies.

FY22 Example:

• \$1,400,000 for South Albany Street Over Six Mile Creek Bridge Replacement

2. Department of Transportation—Transit Infrastructure Projects

Transit Infrastructure Projects are public transportation capital projects eligible under 49 U.S.C. 53. Eligible capital projects are described under 49 U.S.C. 5302(4). All projects must be: transit capital projects or project-specific planning/design for a transit capital project; supported by the state, local governmental authority, or Tribal government that would administer the project, such as by being included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) or Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP); and sponsored by designated recipients, states (including territories and the District of Columbia), local governmental authorities, and/or Indian tribes.

Public transportation or transit is defined in 49 U.S.C. 5302(15) and (22), as regular, continuing shared-ride surface transportation that is open to the general public or open to a segment of the general public defined by age, disability, or low income, and does not include intercity passenger rail transportation, intercity bus, charter bus, school bus, sightseeing, courtesy shuttle, or intraterminal /intra-facility shuttle services.

Most projects will be subject to various federal requirements such as competition in contracting, Buy America, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and generally a 20 percent cost share requirement. Funding cannot be used for administrative activities, even if they are eligible under the statutory citation. This includes general operating expenses, joint development projects, and planning activities. Capital Investment Grants (CIG) projects will **not** be considered as CPF projects.

<u>Best For:</u> State and local governments; metropolitan planning organizations; local transportation agencies.

FY22 Example:

- \$3,000,000 for City of Amsterdam (NY-20): Multimodal Station Phase I Pedestrian Connector and Station Design
- \$1,760,000 for Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority: Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority Battery Electric Bus Charging Infrastructure

3. Department of Transportation—Airport Improvement Program (AIP)

Airport Improvement Program (AIP) projects are intended to enhance airport safety, capacity, and security, and environmental concerns. All projects must be: AIP eligible in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 47100 et seq. and FAA policy and guidance; included in the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS); supported broadly by local stakeholders, including residents, businesses, and elected officials; and administered by an airport and/or airport sponsor.

Projects will be subject to various federal requirements such as competition in contracting, Buy America, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and a cost share requirement based on size. The grant covers 75 percent of eligible costs (or 80 percent of noise program implementation) for large and medium primary hub airports and a range of 90-95 percent of

eligible costs for small primary, reliever, and general aviation airports. Specific cost share requirements can and should be verified by the FAA Regional District Office.

More information on eligibility: https://www.faa.gov/airports/aip/overview/

Best For: Local airports.

4. Department of Transportation—Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements

Rail infrastructure projects are capital projects eligible under the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) program authorized under 49 U.S.C. 22907. CRISI provides grants to assist in financing the cost of improving passenger and freight rail transportation systems. All projects must be: rail capital projects or systems planning for a rail capital project; supported by the state, local governmental authority, or Tribal government that would administer the project; and sponsored by public or Tribal entities.

This is a new CPF account for FY24. Projects will be subject to various federal requirements such as competition in contracting, Buy America, and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Funding **cannot** be used for administrative activities, even if they are eligible under the statutory citation. This includes general operating expenses, rail-related research, and workforce activities. Eligibility and viability can and should be verified by the project sponsor (i.e., public agency).

<u>Best for:</u> State or local governments; state department of transportation; public agencies; not-for-profit rail carrier.

5. Department of Transportation—Port Infrastructure Development Program

Port Infrastructure Development Program projects are projects eligible under 46 U.S.C. 54301.

Projects may be subject to various federal requirements such as competition in contracting, Buy America, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), reviews/audits from the Department of Transportation, and cost share requirements with potential exceptions for small and rural area ports_(46 U.S.C. 54301(a)(8) and (b)). Eligibility and viability can and should be verified by local port authorities and the Maritime Administration's Gateway Offices.

Priority will be given to projects at small inland river and coastal ports and terminals as described in 46 U.S.C. 54301(b), and to discrete, smaller-scale projects at larger ports and intermodal connections to ports.

Best for: Port authorities; State and local governments; public agencies.

6. Department of Housing and Urban Development—CDBG, Economic Development Initiative (EDI)

EDI projects are intended for economic and community development activities, consistent with statutory and additional committee requirements. For FY24, project requests must be eligible under one or more of the following criteria of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program: 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4), 5305(a)(5), and limited to land or site acquisition, demolition or rehabilitation, blight removal, and construction and capital improvements of public facilities, except for "buildings used for the general conduct of government."

- 5305(a)(1) acquisition of real property (including air rights, water rights, and other interest therein) which is (A) blighted, deteriorated, deteriorating, undeveloped, or inappropriately developed from the standpoint of sound community development and growth; (B) appropriate for rehabilitation or conservation activities; (C) appropriate for the preservation or restoration of historic sites, the beautification of urban land, the conservation of open spaces, natural resources, and scenic areas, the provision of recreational opportunities, or the guidance of urban development; (D) to be used for the provision of public works, facilities, and improvements eligible for assistance under this chapter; or (E) to be used for other public purposes.
- 5305(a)(2) acquisition, construction, reconstruction, or installation (including design features and improvements with respect to such construction, reconstruction, or installation that promote energy efficiency) of public works, facilities (except for buildings for the general conduct of government) and site or other improvements.
- 5305(a)(4) clearance, demolition, removal, reconstruction, and rehabilitation (including rehabilitation which promotes energy efficiency) of buildings and improvements (including interim assistance, and financing public or private acquisition for reconstruction or rehabilitation, and reconstruction or rehabilitation of privately owned properties, and including the renovation of closed school buildings).
- 5305(a)(5) special projects directed to the removal of material and architectural barriers, which restrict the mobility and accessibility of elderly and handicapped persons.

Funding is **not eligible** for programmatic and operational expenses or museums, commemoratives, memorials, swimming pools, water parks, golf courses, healthcare facilities, venues strictly for entertainment purposes (e.g., theatres and performing arts venues), courthouses, and townhalls. In addition, funding is **not eligible** for reimbursement of expenses for soft costs (planning, administrative) incurred prior to the completion of a grant agreement between HUD and the grantee. A grant agreement and a completed environmental review are necessary for reimbursement of hard costs (construction activities).

Projects will be subject to various federal requirements such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), HUD's NEPA-implementing regulations (24 CFR Part 50 or 58), and all applicable federal environmental and historic preservation laws, regulations, and executive orders. An environmental review must be completed before HUD funds and new commitments on non-HUD funds can be used for a project.

EDI community project funding **does not** have a local match requirement.

<u>Best For:</u> Projects administered by governmental or non-profit entities, including public housing agencies, as well as tribes and tribally designated housing entities.

Eligible projects might include water or sewer infrastructure projects that are not otherwise eligible to be funded under EPA STAG or Rural Water and Waste accounts; local road infrastructure that is not otherwise eligible under the Highway Infrastructure Projects account; streetscape improvements; public or non-profit housing rehabilitation, housing development financing, residential conversions, and neighborhood revitalization projects that would increase housing supply and/or improve housing affordability in the local community; projects with a clear economic development benefit such as workforce training centers and manufacturing incubators; and projects that meet a compelling local need consistent with statutory purposes (food banks in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods, youth and senior centers, and multipurpose community centers).

FY23 Example:

- \$500,000 for Erie Canalway Heritage Fund, Inc. Matton Shipyard Preservation and Adaptive Reuse Initiative
- \$800,000 for Unity House of Troy, Inc. Employment Services Facility Improvements Project
